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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Town Plan of Olsztyn (German: Allenstein)

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SUPP. TO
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1. "The following information on Olsztyn dates up to January 1954:
2. "Olsztyn, which before World War II was the seat of one of the three governing districts (regierungsbezirke) in East Prussia, has now become the capital of the entire area (excluding that part of the former state of Prussia around Koenigsberg /Kaliningrad/ which was incorporated into the USSR).

Population/War Damage

3. "Before World War II, Olsztyn had 43,500 inhabitants. This number has lately increased to over 50,000 - in spite of the fact that Olsztyn was very badly damaged during the Soviet winter offensive of 1944-45. Almost 40% of the town itself was damaged. Most badly hit was the center of town - the old part around the market place. The majority of Olsztyn's inhabitants are former residents of the town and district of Wilna. Among them are the famous group of 'Polish Tatars' who used to live near Troki /not in NIS Gazeteer for Poland/ before the war. Their presence gave rise to the first introduction of the Moslem religion into East Prussia.

Past and Present Military Role

4. "Along with its administrative importance, Olsztyn (German: Allenstein) also played a remarkable role in the military organization of East Prussia. Because of its location on one of the main routes to the Masurian group of lakes it was one of the longest garrisons in central East Prussia. Even before World War II, military units equal to more than two regiments were quartered in four groups of military barracks. Furthermore, shortly before the war, there was an airfield (field-type) in the western outskirts of Olsztyn.

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The barracks and the airfield suffered only slight damages during the war. Nevertheless, the barracks were completely rebuilt.

5. "At present, Olsztyn is the seat of the 15th Infantry Division Headquarters. Along with a strong infantry unit (probably two battalions) and other division units (signal and engineering), there are also an artillery officers' school and a strong armored unit (probably of regimental size) equipped with heavy tanks.
6. "There is quite a strong Soviet Army detachment in Olsztyn which is attached to the Soviet Liaison Military Mission. This Soviet Liaison Military Mission is in charge and control of the roads crossing through East Prussia on the route between Koenigsberg and East Germany. It is said that the Soviet unit has the strength of approximately 100 men. (This information dates as far back as 1952.)

Past and Present Industrial Importance

7. "As industrial activity is concentrated near Koenigsberg and Elblag (German: Elbing). Before World War II, quite a number of large brick factories were in operation around the town. There was one in the eastern outskirts of Olsztyn, with a yearly output of four-and-a-half million bricks. There were three others farther east in Klebark (German: Gross Kleeberg), Karolin (German: ?) and Bartag (German: Bertum) with a combined production of over ten million bricks per year. Klebark is not in NIS Gazeteer for Poland.⁷ The second most important pre-war industrial activity was in the sawmills, but without any side line operations). Although in 1945 some machinery had been taken by the Soviet military authorities to the USSR, after the war brick production was resumed. The brick factories were placed under the control of the Warsaw Reconstruction Board and became a strong supply center for Warsaw. Of the four or five sawmills, only one is still in operation.
8. "Very few investments are planned for the Olsztyn area under the Six Year Plan. Besides the modernization of the wood and brick factories, only the installation of clothing factories is intended. In the Spring of 1953, a cooling-house was constructed near Olsztyn.

Railroad Connections with other Localities

9. "Olsztyn is situated on the main railway line crossing East Prussia from Korsze (German: Korschen) through Olsztyn toward Ilawa (German: Eylau). Farther west this line crosses Pila (German: Schneidemuhl) in the direction of Kostrzyn (German: Kuestrin) and Slubice (Frankfurt/Oder).

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